

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 through 18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) in the currently pending Office Action dated December 22, 2008 for the above referenced US application. On the other hand, the Examiner has allowed the previously added independent claim 25 while he has objected previously added dependent claim 24. In view of the following remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider the pending rejections.

The Section 103 Rejections

The Examiner has maintained the rejection of claims 1 through 4, 7, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Takeshi JP 07-063165 in view of Parrott 4,846,631. In addition, the Examiner has maintained the rejection of claims 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takeshi JP 07-063165 in view of Parrott 4,846,631, and in further view of Fukanuma 6,558,133. Furthermore, the Examiner has maintained the rejection of claims 8, 10 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takeshi JP 07-063165 in view of Parrott 4,846,631, and in further view of Oshima 3,888,604. The Examiner has maintained the rejection of claims 9 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takeshi JP 07-063165 in view of Parrott 4,846,631, and in further view of Oshima 3,888,604 and still further in view of Kato, 4,127,363. Lastly, the Examiner has maintained the rejection of claims 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takeshi JP 07-063165 in view of Parrott 4,846,631, and in further view of Oshima 3,888,604 and still further in view of Ikeda 5,181,834.

In view of the above rejections, while respectfully disagreeing with the Examiner's characterization of the disclosures in the cited references, the applicant has amended independent claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter limitations of objected

claim 24, which is now cancelled. The Examiner has already indicated allowable subject matter in the objected claim as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims. Objected claim 24 depends directly from independent claim 1.

Newly amended independent claim 1 now explicitly recites all of the allowable subject matter limitations of objected claim 24. That is, the newly amended independent claim 1 has incorporated "the front end portion of the partition wall is fixed to an inner circumferential surface of the inner chamber so that a front end of the first passage is located frontward of a front end of the second passage and so that the first passage and the second passage are separately defined from each other."

Dependent claims 2 through 18 ultimately depend from newly amended independent claim 1 and incorporate the patentable features of the newly amended independent claim.

For the above reasons, the Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections of claims 1 through 18 should be withdrawn and the pending claims 1 through 18 and 24 should be also allowed.

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Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request a favorable Office Action so indicating.

Respectfully submitted,

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